THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The number of Indian Haj pilgrims who lost their lives in Saudi Arabia during Haj pilgrimage in 2004 is as follows:-

(i)	in the stamped	—	16
(ii)	in the traffic accidents	—	3
(iii)	natural deaths	—	164
	Total:	—	183

(b) Under the Group Accident Compensation Scheme, next of kin of 12 of the deceased pilgrims who went through the Haj Committee of India are paid Rs.3 lakhs. The Indian Mission and the Consulate General in Saudi Arabia provide consular assistance in all cases of deaths of Indians in the transport and local burial of the dead bodies and in pursuing compensation claims. As for Government of Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Haj Ministry has conveyed that they will arrange for pilgrimage for three members from the family of each pilgrim who died in the stampede during Haj 2004 at its expense.

Indo-China Cooperation

†1499. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement to enhance natural cooperation between India and China has recently been entered in order to prevent increasing terrorist activities in Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any issue regarding prevention of smuggling of narcotics and an arrangement regarding non-utilisation of territory of one country to prevent terrorism within the territories of other country was discussed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) during the visit of then Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji to India in January 2002, the two sides agreed to establish a

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

bilateral Dialogue Mechanism on Counter-Terrorism. Two rounds of discussions have been held under this mechanism in April 2002 and June 2003 respectively, during which both sides shared their national experiences in dealing with the phenomenon of terrorism, and exchanged views on the international counter-terrorism situation including developments in the region, cooperation at the United Nations, possibilities of bilateral cooperation and enhancing counter-terrorism capabilities.

(c) and (d) During the visit of then Chinese President Jiang Zemin to India in November-December 1996, India and China signed an Agreement on " Cooperation for Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Other Crimes".

The Joint Declaration signed between India and China during the visit of then Prime Minister Shri A.B. Vajpayee to China in June 2003, *inter alia,* states, "The two sides recognized the threat posed by terrorism to them and to global peace and security. They resolutely condemnd terrorism in any form. The struggle between the international community and global terrorism is a comprehensive and sustained one, with the ultimate objective of eradication of terrorism in all regions. This requires strengthening of the global legal framework against terrorism. Both sides shall also promote cooperation on counter-terrorism through their bilateral dialogue mechanism".

MoU with Myanmar to prevent terrorism

†1500. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed any Memorandum of Understanding with Myanmar to prevent increasing incidents of terrorists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Myanmar have also signed any Memorandum of Understanding regarding enhancing cooperation in the field to training of security forces and police; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government of India has signed

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.